

PRESS RELEASE

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights Takes Action in POCSO Case: Ensuring Justice and Support for the Survivor.

28th August 2023

New Delhi

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), operating under the Government of NCT of Delhi, has undertaken an urgent and comprehensive intervention in a significant POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case that highlights the necessity of protecting and empowering the most vulnerable members of society.

In response to the distressing news article titled "14-Year-old Accuses Delhi Women and Child Development Officer of Rape," published by NDTV on August 20, 2023, the DCPCR promptly took suo-motu cognizance of the matter. The article reported the harrowing account of a 14-year-old survivor who alleged repeated instances of rape by her father's friend between 2020 and 2021.

In its steadfast commitment to child protection and welfare, the DCPCR initiated a series of resolute actions:

1. Immediate Notice to Authorities: On August 20, 2023, the DCPCR issued a notice to the SHO Burari, directing to share a copy of FIR, detailed action taken in the matter, arrest of the accused and status of statement of child recorded under Section 164 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) Act. The statement of the child under Section 164 of the CrPC Act was recorded in the hospital.

2. Counseling and Psychological Support: Acknowledging the survivor's trauma and need for emotional support, the DCPCR arranged a counseling session with its senior counselor on August 20th and 22nd, 2023.

3. Advocacy for Justice and Rehabilitation: The DCPCR took proactive steps in advocating for justice and rehabilitation by issuing a notice on August 21, 2023, to the SHO Burari, urging the filing of a victim compensation application for the survivor's rehabilitation.

4. Unwavering Advocacy: Nidhi Dwivedi, Member POCSO, and Ranjana Prasad, Member RTE, personally visited the hospital for support and assessment. Unfortunately, they were denied entry at the main gate. Consequently, the Commission swiftly issued a notice to the Deputy Commissioner of Police and Medical Superintendent of the hospital, seeking clarification on this matter.

5. Accountability of the Department of WCD: The Commission sought history of the involvement of the alleged accused in similar cases and received response from the Dept. that the alleged offender Dy. Director WCD was earlier involved in four complaints, two of which are still in Trial before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The Commission sought an Action Taken Report by the Dept. in all the cases against the alleged accused.

6. The Commission has sought the reason for delay by Delhi Police in the arrest of the alleged accused by 7 days.

This case underscores the urgency of comprehensive action to ensure justice, rehabilitation, and the overall well-being of child survivors. The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights remains steadfast in its mission to protect and uphold the rights of children.